

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 125633  
ORIGIN AF-10

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O 010432Z MUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125633

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ET, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MEETING WITH MENGISTU

REF: (A) ADDIS 3412, (B) STATE 62081, (C) STATE 66464

1. IF MEETING WITH MENGISTU TAKES PLACE, YOU SHOULD DRAW, AT YOUR DISCRETION, ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED REF B (AS AMENDED BY REF C AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS) TO ANSWER ANY POINTS RAISED BY HIM. ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOLLOWS.

2. WE SEE NO PARTICULAR ADVANTAGE TO GETTING INTO ACRIMONIOUS OR STERILE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT PAST DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE LED TO STEADY DETERIORATION IN OUR RELATIONS. HOWEVER, WE ARE PROVIDING GUIDANCE IN SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS THIS TELEGRAM SHOULD MENGISTU EMPHASIZE THE PAST INSTEAD OF THE FUTURE.

3. RATHER, WE PREFER TO PROBE EPMG VIEW OF FUTURE EVENTS IN HORN AND ITS RELATIONS WITH USG. YOU MAY STATE THAT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEW OF EPMG'S UNILATERAL ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST US WITHOUT ANY SEMBLANCE OF CONSULTATION OR NEGOTIATION IT WOULD BE HARD TO CHARACTERIZE OUR RELATIONS AS ANYTHING RESEMBLING NORMAL.

4. THIS IS NOT A DEVELOPMENT THAT USG WELCOMES OR DESIRES.

IN THE EVENT THAT EPMG HAS ANY CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS ABOUT HOW OUR RELATIONS COULD BE REPAIRED, YOU MAY STATE THAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO FORWARD THEM TO WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD ANTICIPATE THAT USG REACTIONS WOULD CERTAINLY BE CONDITIONED ON POSITIVE STEPS WHICH EPMG CAN TAKE AS OFFSET TO ITS NEGATIVE STEPS. FACT THAT MENGISTU IS SEEING YOU, AFTER NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH ETHIOPIAN POLICY MAKERS FOR OVER TWO (2) YEARS, MAY BE SEEN AS POSITIVE SIGN--NOT ACTION--IN ITSELF.

5. IF MENGISTU RAISES LATEST EPMG-ORDERED EXPULSIONS OF US PERSONNEL, YOU SHOULD INFORM HIM THAT, WHILE WE BELIEVE SHORT DEADLINE IS UNWARRANTED, ON THE WHOLE THE EPMG ORDER ACCORDS WITH PLANS WE HAD ALREADY DEVELOPED--OF WHICH WE HAD INFORMED MOFA--TO BRING OUR STAFF INTO CONFORMITY WITH THE REDUCED ROLE COMMENSURATE WITH US POSITION IN ETHIOPIA FOLLOWING THE APRIL EXPULSIONS. WE REGRET EPMG'S HASTE, BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO COMPLY.

6. IF MENGISTU ATTEMPTS TO CHARGE US WITH COLLUSION WITH FOES OF EPMG, YOU SHOULD CATEGORICALLY DENY SUCH CHARGES. IF HE BLAMES US FOR DETERIORATION OF OUR RELATIONS YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT NO ACTION OR INACTION BY US HAS JUSTIFIED THE BRUSQUENESS OR FAR-REACHING EXTENT OF EPMG ACTIONS CAUSING DETERIORATION OF OUR RELATIONS. FURTHERMORE THEY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT WITHOUT CONSULTATION.

7. IF MENGISTU RAISES US-ETHIOPIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP,  
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WE WISH TO HAVE IT FIRMLY ON RECORD THAT WE REGARD PRESENT DE FACTO TERMINATION OF RELATIONSHIP AS HAVING RESULTED FROM ETHIOPIAN ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS. IF HE REFERS TO CUT-OFF FY78 GRANT MATERIEL MAP, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT:

(A) CONTINUATION OF GRANT MAP AID WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONSISTENT WITH HEIGHTENED HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS OF BOTH CONGRESS AND NEW ADMINISTRATION;

(B) ETHIOPIA WAS NOT ALONE IN BEING AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY;

(C) GRANT MIL MATERIEL MAP WAS SMALL PART OF OVER-ALL MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WHICH AT THAT TIME STILL INCLUDED FMS CREDITS, FMS AND COMMERCIAL SALES, AND TRAINING. NO US MOVES JUSTIFIED THE EPMG'S CLOSURE OF THE MAAG AND THE DAO, UNILATERAL ABROGATION OF OUR 1953 MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, CLOSURE OF THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY ATTACHE OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, AND RECALL OF ETHIOPIAN

MILITARY TRAINEES IN THE US--ALL OF WHICH HAVE THE EFFECT

OF UNILATERAL TERMINATION BY THE EPMG OF THE LONG-STANDING  
US-ETHIOPIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. FREEZE ON ARMS

SHIPMENTS WAS NATURAL REACTION FOLLOWING APRIL EXPULSIONS  
AND ABROGATIONS OF AGREEMENTS WHILE WE STUDIED  
IMPLICATIONS OF EPMG ACTIONS, WHICH, WE BELIEVE, CLEARLY  
INDICATE EPMG DESIRE TO TERMINATE MILITARY TIES WITH US.

8. IF MENGISTU RAISES SUBJECT OF US ECONOMIC AID, YOU  
SHOULD SAY THAT WE HAVE NOTED WITH INTEREST THAT EPMG HAS  
EXEMPTED AID FROM LATEST REDUCTION ORDER. DEPENDING ON  
BETTER READING OF EPMG VIEWS ON OUR RELATIONS, IT HAS  
BEEN, IN FACT, US INTENTION TO MAINTAIN OUR ECONOMIC AID.  
OUR CONCERN FOR THE NEEDIEST SECTORS OF ETHIOPIAN SOCIETY  
CONTINUES DESPITE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, DESPITE  
UNRESPONSIVENESS OF ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES WHICH HAS SLOWED  
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IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME OF OUR PROGRAMS, AND DESPITE OUR  
HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT  
WE ARE UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM WITHIN THE US AS A  
RESULT OF:

(A) CONTINUED ARBITRARY ARRESTS, SUMMARY TRIALS AND EXECUTIONS IN ETHIOPIA WHICH GREATLY OVERSHADOW SUCH POSITIVE  
REFORMS IN OTHER FIELDS AS THE EPMG HAS UNDERTAKEN;

(B) THE EPMG'S FAILURE TO MOVE TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF  
COMPENSATION CLAIMS FOR EXPROPRIATION CASES PENDING FOR  
OVER TWO YEARS;

(C) CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC GROWING AWARENESS OF THE  
MOUNTING RECORD OF HOSTILE EPMG ACTIONS AGAINST  
THE OFFICIAL US PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA, COUPLED WITH  
VITUPERATIVE AND TOTALLY UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS OF US  
COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDIP, ET, US, PDIP, (MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM)  
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**Type:** TE  
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